

Developing a Thriving Community Through Technology Leadership

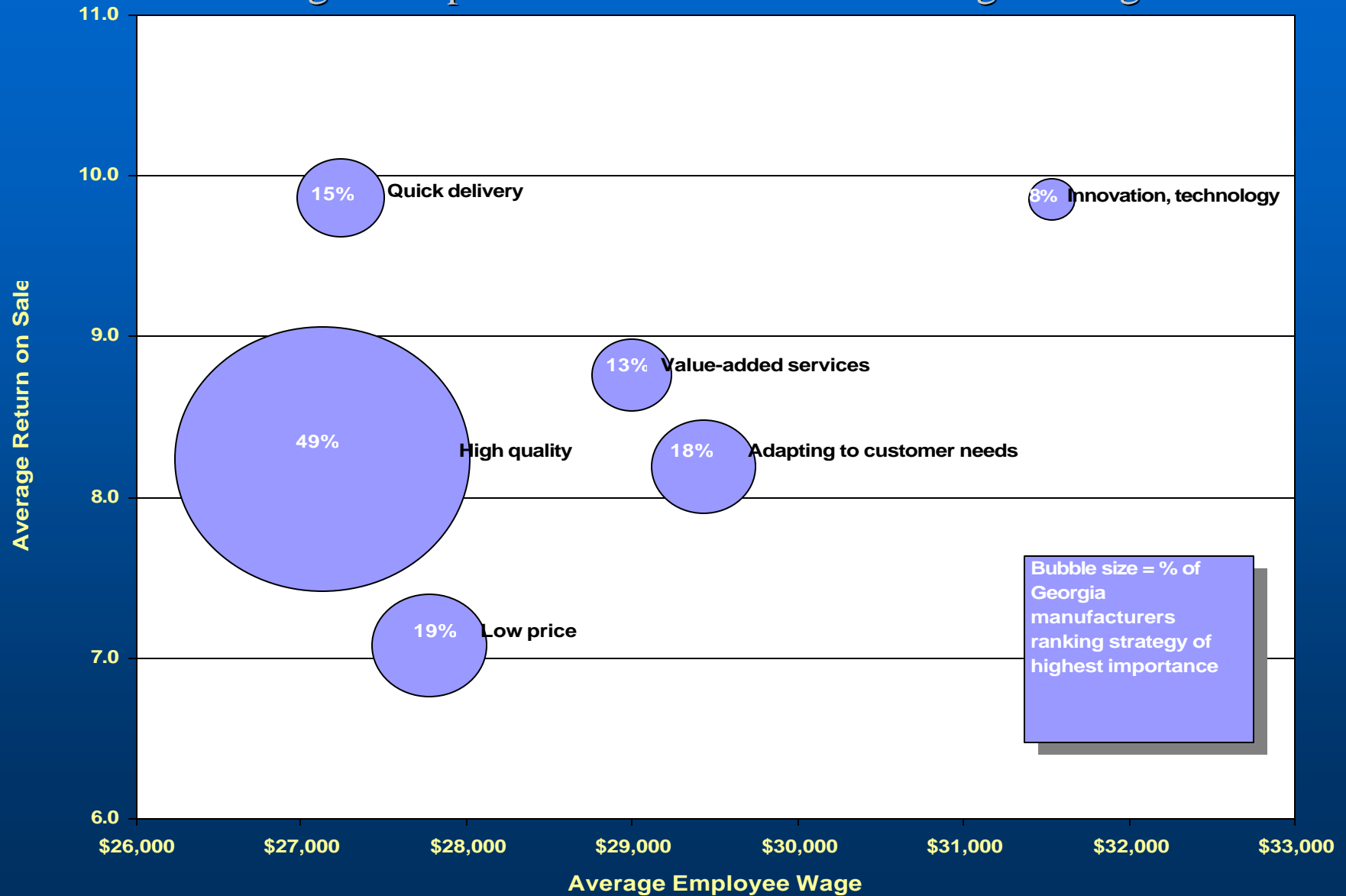
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Vicksburg, MS

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Innovation/technology Strategies Yield Higher Returns/wages. . . But Most Georgia Companies Prioritize Low Return/wage Strategies



Key Criteria

- Education
- Workforce
- Infrastructure
- Clustering
- Technology Savvy Community
- Quality of Life
- Incentives

Education

- Universities & Institutes

- Engineering, Computer Science, IT

- State and Two-Year Colleges

- Programming/Electronics

- Technical Colleges

- Electronics
 - Technology Assembly
 - Engineering Technology
 - Information Technology

Workforce

-Computer Literate

- Entrepreneurial

- Good Financial Aptitude

- Customer Care/Service Skills

- Motivated and Eager to Advance and Learn

- Drug Free and Ethical

- Entry and Advanced Technical Skills

Infrastructure

Telecommunications Capabilities

- ILEC - Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
- CLEC - Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
 - Fiber Optic Rings & Lines
 - Redundancy & Backup location

Utilities

- Know who provides power where
 - Hi Reli Power, Back-up systems
- - Know power substation locations and capabilities

Clustering

**Advanced Communication & Technology
companies want to co-exist**

Know the existing company base

Know current issues for those companies

**Cultivate HR & Senior Management for
possible contacts & prospect visits**

West Georgia Telecommunications Alliance, Inc.

Access Network Communications
&
West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

Access Network Communications

- | **ANC is a joint initiative of Carroll EMC and the West Georgia Telecommunications Alliance.**
- | **Subscriber-owned cooperative.**
- | **MISSION: To promote economic and educational development in West Georgia by deploying advanced digital broadband telecommunications technology throughout the region.**

Access Network Communications

Objectives

- To provide an affordable, state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure to support the growing needs of existing businesses in West Georgia.
- To help close the “Digital divide” by facilitating access to and development of online educational tools and distance learning for schools and life-long learners in the region.

Access Network Communications

Objectives

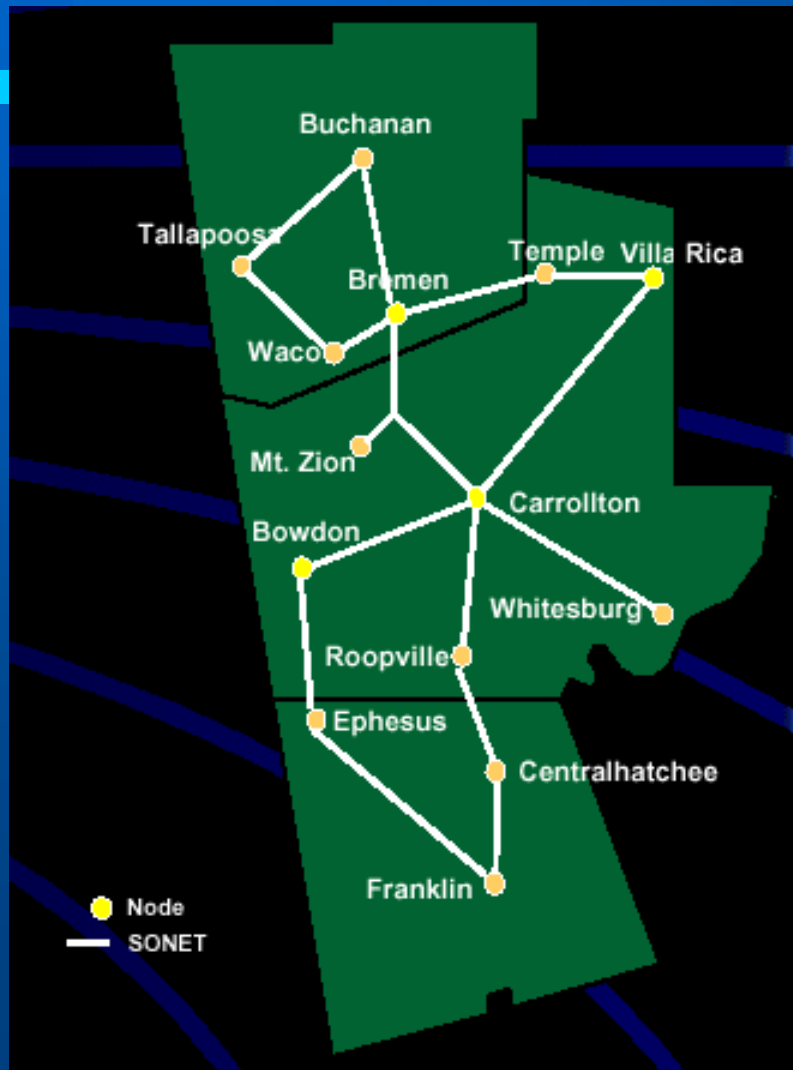
- | To provide the needed infrastructure for broadband telemedicine between regional hospitals and clinics.
- | TO foster economic development by providing the modern communications networks needed to attract high-tech, high-paying companies to the region.

Access Network Communications

Why is it Important?

- | The digital economy is upon us. In a few short years trillions of dollars of business will be conducted over conduits of fiber optics, coaxial cable and wireless communications systems.
- | The top requirements for companies looking to relocate include ready, available education and a highly educated, highly skilled workforce.
- | A top 5 requirement for companies looking to relocate is a broadband network.
- | Without this infrastructure a rural economy cannot grow with the digital revolution.

Access Network Communications



The Network:

Full fiber deployment
across region at OC-48

Voice, Data, and Video
served throughout region.

West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

- | The culmination of 8 months of research and planning by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and WGTA, Inc.
- | The WGEC is an incubator program for fledgling hi-tech, service and distribution businesses.
- | The incubator will support business ideas from the early stages of company development until the graduation stage of growth.

West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

- | **MISSION:** To accelerate the growth and success of entrepreneurial companies through an array of business resources and services.
- | **GOAL:** To produce successful firms that leave the program financially viable and freestanding.

West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

- | The Entrepreneurial Center will provide an environment in which these businesses can develop, grow and succeed by offering many crucial services:
- | Management Assistance including business plan development, strategic planning, and marketing.
- | Aid in Finding Financing Resources such as SBA, City and County Loan Programs, Debt Financing, and Private Investors. The Center for New Business Ventures is a local investment group.
- | Access to Business Library including books, reference materials, and periodicals.

West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

The Entrepreneurial Center will also provide:

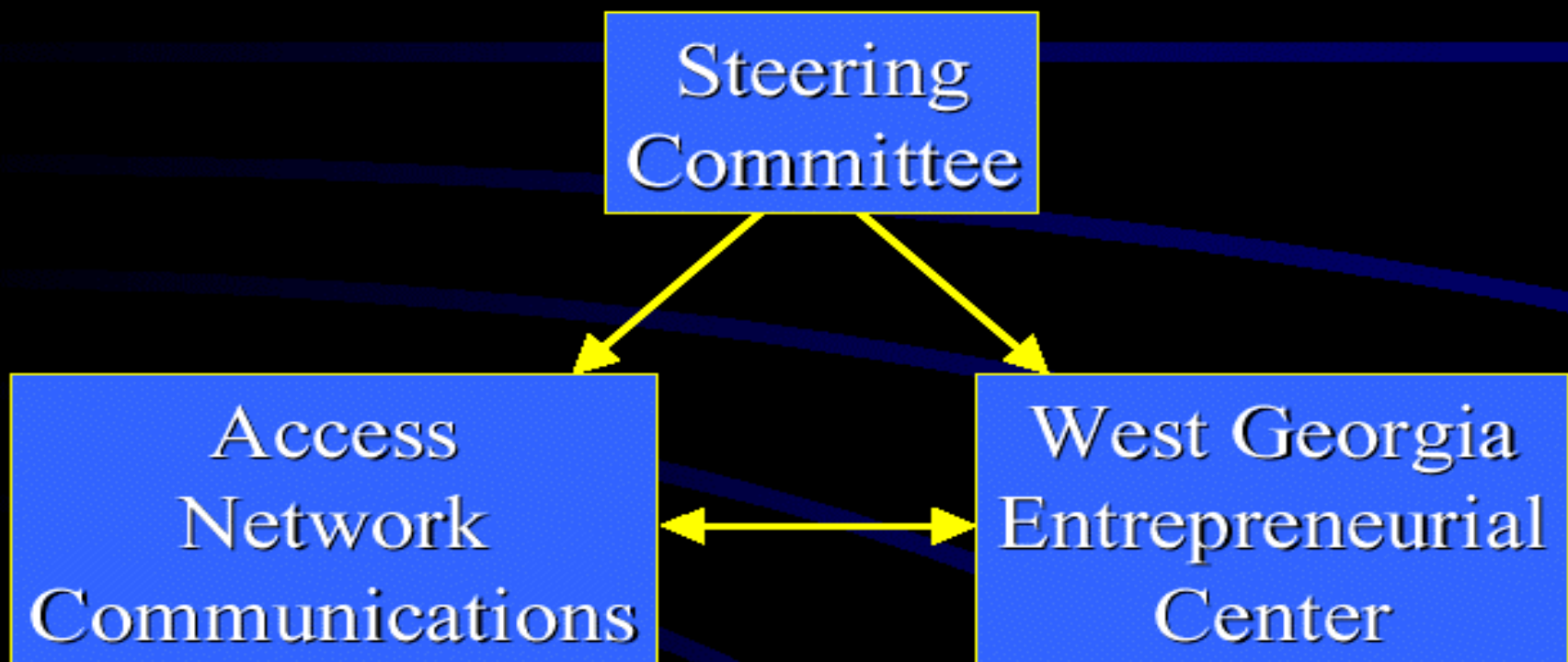
- | Flexible and secure office space,**
- | High-speed Internet Access and Web Hosting,**
- | Technical Support and Consulting,**
- | Seminars on a variety of business subjects,**
- | Coordination of media releases and business events,**
- | Use of Laser printers, copiers, faxes,**
- | Shared secretarial and administrative support.**
- | Notary Public Service.**

West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

Why is it Important?

- | “Smokestack chasing” has all but died as an economic development method. The focus is now on smaller information and services companies.
- | The incubator serves as an economic development tool for business *creation*.
- | The incubator will also assist in the *attraction* of new businesses through its assets and the community commitment its presence demonstrates.
- | Working with the community, WGEC can help the *retention* of its graduates.
- | Finally ANC and WGEC will result in business expansion.

West Georgia Telecommunications Alliance, Inc.



West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center

- 25,000 Square Feet of Flexible Office, Distribution and Light Manufacturing Space
- Property includes enough acreage to expand to 4 times current size and still have adequate buffer space to surroundings.
- 3 roll-up doors in rear
- Generous Parking
- Great Curb Appeal



Future home of the West Georgia Entrepreneurial Center and Access Network Communications

West Georgia Telecommunications Alliance, Inc.



The Incubator/Network Steering Committee at a recent meeting. Back row from left to right: Thomas Venne, Steve Minor, Bill Rucker, The Green, Robert Settna, Tommy Green, Ray Fulford, Henry Dickerson, Phil Kauffman, Rob Stone, Leighton Alston, Ken O'Neill. Front row from left to right: David Hovey, Tom Richards, Harris Johnson, John Burson, Loy Howard, Martin Smith. Not pictured: Ray Richards, Janet Ayers, Tim Warren, Dick Tisinger, Mike Horton, Tim Hynes.